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Borough of



Accrington.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1926.

ARTHUR GREENHALGH,

M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.



To the Sanitary Authority of the Borough of Accrington.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Twenty-eighth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the Borough, for the year ending December 31st, 1926.

It is with feelings of deep regret, amounting almost to reverence, that I refer to the death of my colleague, Mr. Richard Diggle, which took place on October 5th.

In his capacity as the Chief Sanitary Inspector, the Accrington Corporation were blessed with a conscientious, upright man, who did his work with a kindness and firmness which endeared him to all who came in contact with him.

The Report of 1925 was what is known as a Survey Report, and dealt with matters that had occurred or were in progress during the previous five years. This year's Report is what is known as an Ordinary Report, and so no repetition will be made in reporting circumstances which do not vary from year to year, as for instance, climate, topography, and geographical circumstances.

The population for the middle of 1926 has been estimated by the Registrar General to be 43,190, that is 410 less than the figure for 1925, and it is upon this number that the various rates in this Report have been calculated.

For 1925 the figure was ...	43,600.
„ 1924 „ „ „ ...	43,860.
„ 1923 „ „ „ ...	44,180.
„ 1922 „ „ „ ...	44,210.
„ 1921 „ „ „ ...	44,480.
„ 1920 „ „ „ ...	45,398.

So it appears that as regards population, we are a diminishing quantity. Certainly the natural increase, that is, excess of births over deaths, has become a decrease during the last three years, of one, twenty-eight, and twenty-three respectively.

The total number of Births belonging to the Borough, was 568, which is the smallest on record. Of these, 112, almost 20% occurred in Moorlands Hospital. An analysis of these figures for the last 15 years will be found in a table in the body of the Report.

The number of Deaths was 569. Only in four previous years has the number been less.

The number of Infant Deaths was 43, and only twice before has the number been less. Of the 43 Infant Deaths, 14 or 32% died during the first week of life and a total of 24 or 55% of the whole, died during the first four weeks of life.

The Infant Mortality figure works out at 75.7, and is the third best we have ever had. For England and Wales it was 70, and for the City of London it was 64. Last year we were in the proud position of showing a clean pair of heels to both these figures.

The Nurses are sometimes hindered in their endeavours to save Infant life, by the failure of the parents to send word to them at the Centre immediately the baby becomes ill. The Nurses on visiting the baby for the first time, invariably leave an addressed post-card to be used on such occasions if the mother cannot otherwise send word. I feel satisfied that if immediate notice were sent, an improvement in the Mortality Figure would be effected.

The Thursday afternoon meetings grow in popularity, if the attendance may be taken as a criterion. 756 different mothers have attended, and, in all, they have made 4,985 visits. The morning visits of mothers with their babies, show that the Centre is answering a need, and altogether, I am pleased with the progress of the work as a whole. On 1,322 occasions mothers have attended in the mornings to have their babies weighed, and to obtain bits of advice appertaining to the welfare of the child.

Again it is my pleasure to record my appreciation of the very generous service given by the Ladies of the Infant Welfare Committee, who have in various ways made the Thursday afternoon meetings more pleasant, instructive and efficient. A cup of tea and a biscuit is served for the sum of one penny, and is very much appreciated by the mothers, and adds an attraction to the gatherings.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR GREENHALGH,

Medical Officer of Health.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres), 3,427.

Population Census (1921), 46,610.

Estimated Population (1926), 43,190.

Number of inhabited houses (Census 1921), 11,238.

Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1921), 11,731

Rateable value, £265,638.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £1,035.

Vital Statistics.

Births :—	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	550	269	281
Illegitimate	18	13	5
Deaths	569	290	279

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of child-birth :—From sepsis, 1 ; from other causes, 3.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—Total, 43 ; Legitimate, 40 ; Illegitimate, 3.

Deaths from Measles (all ages), Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages), 6.

Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years), 2.

Rates per 1,000 of Population.

	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Rate of Deaths under 1 year to 1,000 Births.
Mean of 5 years, 1921-1925	14.8	13.2	0.68	77
		*13.5	}	
1925	13.1	13.7		61
1926	13.1	13.1	0.75	75
Increase or Decrease in 1926 on—				
5 Years' Average	—1.7	—0.1	+ 0.10	—2
Previous Year ..	Nil.	—0.6	+ 0.14	+ 14

*Corrected figure.

Poor Law Relief.

I am indebted to the Relieving Officer for the following information :—

During 1926, out-door relief allowed was £5,800 to the permanent sick ; old and infirm, £65 per week ; to unemployed, temporary sick, etc., £75 per week.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Hospitals Provided or Subsidised by the Local Authority.

- (1) Tuberculosis. The County Tuberculosis Officer carries out all arrangements for institutional treatment.
- (2) Maternity. We have as yet no Maternity Home in the Borough, but 112 Accrington residents have availed themselves of the arrangements made at Moorlands Hospital. Abnormal cases only are sent to the Victoria Hospital, Accrington.

- (3) Children. Beyond the Poor Law Hospital, Moorlands, and the Children's Ward, Victoria Hospital, Accrington, no other hospital is provided or subsidised.
- (4) Fever. Up to May 6th, 1926, we arranged for these cases with the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board. From May 7th, 1926, we have sent such cases to the Blackburn Infectious Diseases Hospital, each individual case being paid for at an arranged rate. No retaining fee is paid.
- (5) Small-pox. The treatment is arranged for at our own Isolation Hospital, Baxenden. We have accommodation for 24 beds, and a caretaker is always in residence.

No other hospitals are provided or subsidised.

Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants, and Homeless Children in the Area.

Beyond the Poor Law arrangements, no provision of this character has been made.

Ambulance Facilities.

- (a) For Infectious Cases, Motor Ambulance to and from Blackburn Infectious Diseases Hospital, belonging to the Hospital.
- (b) For Non-infectious and accident cases. The town possesses its own Motor Ambulance, which is used for the above-mentioned cases.

Clinic and Treatment Centres.

Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre. Situated at the Ambulance Drill Hall, Bull Bridge, open daily from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., and Thursday afternoons from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., for consultations and weighing of babies.

School Clinic. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., for the treatment of minor ailments in school children.

Day Nurseries. Nil.

Tuberculosis. Under County Council. Dispensary situated at 39 Avenue Parade, Accrington.

Venereal Diseases. No treatment centre in the Borough. Cases coming to our notice are advised to go either to the Blackburn Royal Infirmary, or Burnley Victoria Hospital.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health: Arthur Greenhalgh, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H., Part-time Officer.

Sanitary Inspector: Richard Diggle (deceased 5/10/26), Whole-time Officer.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector: John A. Hindle (appointed temporarily to succeed Mr. Diggle, October, 1926), Whole-time Officer.

Health Visitor: Miss Munro, C.M.B., three years' general training.

Part-time Health Visitors and School Nurses:

Miss Wadsworth, C.M.B., three years' general training.

Miss Beaghen, C.M.B., three years' general training.

Miss Harking, C.M.B., three years' general training (resigned July, 1926)

Miss Greenhalgh, C.M.B., three years' general training (commenced August, 1926).

Professional Nursing in the Home.

- (a) General. No arrangements are made by the Council for the provision of general nursing. This, however, is carried out in a satisfactory manner by the Queen's District Nurses, who work in happy co-ordination with the Health Visitors.
- (b) Infectious Diseases. The Corporation have no arrangements for the nursing of Infectious Diseases; but, when there is a prevalence of any disease, for instance, Measles, the Health Visitors give instructions as to the nursing of these cases.

Midwives. There are six midwives practising in the area on their own account, and they are under the governance of the County Council. No midwives are employed or subsidised by the Health Authority.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

The supply of water is abundant, and is distributed to every part of the area. The sources of the water are as follows: Cliffe Reservoir, situated in Harwood; Mitchell's Reservoirs, situated in Baxenden, and Burnley Road Reservoir, situated in Huncoat. The latter is connected with a pumping station at Altham, which commands a supply of water from underground; this, however, is very hard, and gives great dissatisfaction in those parts of the town to which it is supplied. No satisfactory form of softening has been arranged. The whole gas and water arrangements of the Borough are under the Accrington and District Gas and Water Board.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The drainage of the Borough is satisfactory, and is now complete to all parts of the Borough. The outfall takes place at Coppy Clough Works, and is under the governance of the Accrington and Church Outfall Sewerage Board. The current report of the Engineer to the Board, Mr. W. J. Newton, should be consulted for further detail.

Infectious Diseases.

There has been no great prevalence of any particular disease during the period under review. The following table shows the number of cases and deaths of the principal infectious diseases during the last six years :—

	1926.		1925.		1924.		1923.		1922.		1921.	
	Notified.	Deaths.	Notified.	Deaths.	Notified.	Deaths.	Notified.	Deaths.	Notified.	Deaths.	Notified.	Deaths.
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	13	1	16	5	5	2	7	—	18	3	39	7
Erysipelas	16	1	29	1	11	—	27	—	25	—	15	—
Scarlet Fever	37	—	47	—	40	—	74	—	112	3	207	—
Enteric Fever	2	1	5	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	2	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	8	—	—
Whooping Cough	59	6	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	3	—	5
Influenza	—	12	—	6	—	22	—	7	—	29	—	10
*Pneumonia	61	37	74	53	125	59	48	57	33	40	30	39
Pulmonary Tuberculosis..	45	34	40	28	40	27	39	34	45	37	39	28
Other forms of Tuberculosis	22	9	13	11	13	8	15	10	20	5	11	7
Malaria (contracted abroad	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	4	1	—	2	2	—	—	—	1	1	3	1
Cancer	—	72	—	80	—	68	—	58	—	66	—	70
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	2	—	1	—	7	—	7	—	9	—	8	—
Encephalitis Lethargica...	4	4	2	1	5	3	1	—	—	1	—	—

*It will be noticed that during the years 1923, 1922 and 1921, the deaths exceeded the number of notified cases.

Scarlet Fever.

During the year, 37 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified. Of these 37 cases, 3 cases were over 15 years of age, one of which was in a house with less than one person per room, and two were in houses with one to two persons per room.

Of the remaining 34 cases, 18 were in houses with less than one person per room, 15 with one to two persons per room, and one with two and under three persons per room.

Diphtheria.

During the year 13 cases were notified, 4 cases were over 15 years of age, and resided in houses with less than one person per room.

Of the remaining 9 cases, under 15 years of age, 3 resided in houses with less than one person per room, 5 with one to two persons per room, and one with two and under three persons per room.

Whooping Cough.

Whooping Cough was made notifiable from July onwards. 59 cases were notified and 6 deaths occurred. All the notified cases, and many more which were found by the Nurses, were visited and instructions given.

Pneumonia.

All cases of pneumonia that are notified are visited by the Health Visitor, and, if the circumstances under which they are placed are not satisfactory, removal to Moorlands Hospital is recommended.

Puerperal Fever.

During the year, 1926, 4 cases were notified, and 1 death occurred.

Diphtheria Antitoxin.

A supply is kept at the Police Station, and is available at all times in cases of emergency, and is made use of by the medical practitioners in a satisfactory manner. During the year 1926, 104,000 units were used.

Blood Tests.

In cases of suspected typhoids, blood tests are taken and swabs in the case of Diphtheria. These are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, or the Virol Research Laboratories. Altogether 15 examinations were made during the year.

Schick and Dick Tests.

So far as I know these tests have not been used in the Borough.

Tuberculosis.

The Tuberculosis Officer is available every Tuesday and Wednesday for consultations, and, for those who cannot attend during the day, provision is made whereby they can be seen at 6 p.m. on the second Wednesday in each month. Consultations are also granted in suspected cases. Sputum examinations are carried out at the Dispensary. During the year 1926, 171 such examinations have been made—30 positive and 141 negative.

New Cases and Mortality during 1926.

Age Periods. Years.		New Cases.		New Cases.		Deaths.			
		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	...	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
5—10	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
10—15	...	—	1	2	2	—	1	2	—
15—20	...	1	5	5	2	—	6	3	—
20—25	...	4	4	2	1	—	2	1	—
25—35	...	10	5	—	2	5	4	2	—
35—45	...	7	3	1	—	3	4	—	—
45—55	...	2	2	—	1	3	1	1	—
55—65	...	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
65 and upwards		—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
		25	20	11	11	16	18	9	—
		45		22		34		9	

Of the 43 deaths from Tuberculosis, 4 were not notified—3 Pulmonary and 1 Non-Pulmonary.

There is reason to believe some carelessness exists; but no case of wilful neglect or refusal to notify has occurred.

No special incidence of any particular occupation can be reported upon.

Notifiable Diseases for the Year, 1926.

DISEASE.	Total Cases at all Ages.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.												Total Deaths	Hospital.	
		YEARS.													Total cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over			
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	37	...	1	3	3	5	16	6	2	1	...	...	...	...	4	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	13	...	1	...	1	2	1	4	1	3	...	...	...	...	5	...
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Acute Primary Pneumonia	61	1	6	5	3	2	5	3	7	12	5	7	5	37	...	...
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	1	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	4	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	4	6	2	1	1	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	45	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	7	23	10	4	...	34	22	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	22	...	...	1	...	1	1	4	5	7	1	1	1	9	1	...
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	59	6	3	8	15	10	6	5	3	...	1	...	2	6	...	...
Totals	266	9	11	17	22	20	29	25	27	52	23	21	10	93	33	1

**The Total Number of Births, Deaths, Natural Increase, Infant Deaths and Infant Mortality
for the past Fifteen Years are as follows:—**

	Births.	Deaths.	Natural Increase.	Decrease.	Infant Deaths.	Infant Mortality.
1926	568	569	...	1	43	75.70
1925	573	601	...	28	35	61.08
1924	589	612	...	23	45	76.40
1923	629	546	83	...	37	58.85
1922	709	592	117	...	65	91.67
1921	775	583	183	...	78	100.63
1920	868	606	262	...	84	96.77
1919	640	673	...	33	73	114.06
1918	611	601	10	...	57	93.28
1917	585	565	20	...	56	95.72
1916	728	543	185	...	65	89.28
1915	751	650	101	...	78	103.86
1914	884	640	244	...	104	117.64
1913	894	647	247	...	104	116.33
1912	847	532	315	...	65	76.74
Five Years' Averages:						
1926-1922	613	584	29	...	45	73.33
1921-1917	695	605	90	...	69	99.28
1916-1912	820	602	218	...	83	101.21

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS.

Borough.	Population Estimated 1926.	Birth Rate.	Infant Mortality Rate.	Corrected Death Rate.	DEATH RATE from:								
					Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Respiratory Diseases (except Tuberculosis.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea. (under 2 years).	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.
Accrington	43,190	13.1	75.7	13.1	0.78	0.20	1.38	0.00	0.13	0.04	0.00	0.02	0.02
Ashton-U-Lyne	43,070	16.7	102.4	14.6	1.06	00.6	1.11	0.27	00.6	0.25	00.2	00.4	00.6
Batley	35,330	17.7	68.8	13.1	0.5	0.1	1.9	0.00	0.1	0.08	0.00	0.08	0.02
Burnley	99,600	16.1	86.0	13.97	0.69	0.22	2.249	0.09	0.16	0.14	0.00	0.09	0.02
Church	6,635	14.4	104	11.7	0.75	0.30	1.81	0.00	0.45	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00
Chorley	31,150	16.4	77	—	0.54	0.449	1.12	0.003	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.003	0.00
Clayton-le-Moors	8,468	13.2	44.2	9.6	0.82	0.00	1.5	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Colne	25,270	12.0	72	10.2	0.47	0.11	1.3	0.00	0.039	0.039	0.039	0.00	0.04
Crewe	47,470	16.2	63.8	10.1	0.50	0.16	1.50	0.02	0.06	0.10	0.06	0.12	0.00
Darwen	38,860	13.8	75	11.1	0.28	0.15	1.72	0.00	0.10	0.05	0.00	0.02	0.00
Dewsbury	53,630	16.96	89	13.59	0.59	0.16	3.05	0.01	0.13	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.00
Eccles	45,670	17.0	78	11.5	0.72	0.19	1.88	0.04	0.13	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
Farnworth	28,990	15.0	96	11.2	0.62	0.14	2.04	0.03	0.35	0.17	0.03	0.00	0.00
Heywood	25,940	15.1	68	15.1	0.69	0.35	2.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hindley	24,820	15.1	138	12.4	0.96	0.20	0.306	0.36	0.08	0.08	0.04	0.00	0.00
Keighley	41,430	13.34	97	12.4	0.63	0.21	1.85	0.02	0.14	0.04	0.00	0.04	0.00
Lancaster	39,980	16.8	63	11.17	0.70	0.23	0.20	0.00	0.025	0.075	0.00	0.05	0.00
Leigh	45,940	17.2	84	13.2	0.76	0.25	0.08	0.54	0.39	0.23	0.04	0.17	0.02
Middleton	28,360	15.3	57	12.6	0.74	0.18	0.11	0.04	0.07	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nelson	39,820	12.0	56	—	0.72	0.15	1.75	0.02	0.07	0.05	0.00	0.02	0.00
Oswaldtwistle	14,960	14.4	92	11.6	0.66	0.20	1.80	0.00	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00
Radcliffe	25,240	14.4	68	11.9	0.55	0.19	1.14	0.04	0.19	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.00
Ravenshall	28,890	14.6	85.0	13.6	0.72	0.13	2.30	0.06	0.10	4.70	0.10	0.03	0.00
Swinton	33,820	14.7	84	10.7	0.7	0.09	2.09	0.02	0.05	0.1	0.02	0.00	0.02

CAUSES OF DEATHS.

ACCRINGTON RESIDENTS.

Males. Females.

1.	Enteric Fever	1	...
2.	Smallpox	...	...
3.	Measles	...	...
4.	Scarlet Fever	...	...
5.	Whooping Cough	2	4
6.	Diphtheria	...	1
7.	Influenza	10	2
8.	Encephalitis Lethargica	2	2
9.	Meningococcal Meningitis	1	...
10.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	16	18
11.	Other Tuberculous Diseases	9	...
12.	Cancer, Malignant Diseases	30	42
13.	Rheumatic Fever	...	1
14.	Diabetes	1	4
15.	Cerebral Hemorrhage, &c.	15	27
16.	Heart Disease	48	64
17.	Arterio-Sclerosis	4	5
18.	Bronchitis	12	9
19.	Pneumonia (all forms)	24	13
20.	Other Respiratory Diseases	2	...
21.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	5	1
22.	Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	2	...
23.	Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...
24.	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...
25.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	7	4
26.	Puerperal Sepsis	...	1
27.	Other accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	...	3
28.	Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	14	9
29.	Suicide	5	2
30.	Other Deaths from violence	9	6
31.	Other Defined Diseases	63	57
32.	Causes ill-defined or unknown	8	4
All Causes		290	279
Special Causes (included above) :			
	Poliomyelitis	...	...
	Polioencephalitis	...	...
Deaths of Infants under one year of age :			
	Total	26	17
	Illegitimate	1	2
Total Births		282	286
	Legitimate	269	281
	Illegitimate	13	5

Population : 43,190.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

We have four Health Visitors, one who devotes all her time to Infant Welfare Work, and the remaining three are part-time to Infant Welfare and part-time to the School Medical Service.

The Infant Welfare Centre is situated at the Ambulance Drill Hall, Bull Bridge, and is open daily from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., and every Thursday afternoon from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

During their other work, the Nurses find themselves in close touch with nursing and expectant mothers, and also with children under five years of age. At one time, the midwives so far co-operated with us that they furnished us with the names and addresses of any expectant mother coming to their notice; but soon their Trade Union Organisation forbade them to reveal this information. This deprived us of a very useful source of information, but for all that, the Nurses get to know of many cases, and are able to give instructions.

The following table shows the number of visits paid by the Health Visitors during the year :—

To Expectant Mothers	(1) First Visits...	...	74
	(2) Total Visits...	...	232
To Infants under 1	(1) First Visits...	...	579
	(2) Total Visits...	...	6,307
To Children, 1—5	Total Visits...	...	1,202

We have no treatment Centres for Maternity cases, but advice from the Nurses is available every morning, and on Thursday afternoons, when the Medical Officer of Health is also in attendance for consultations.

The maternal mortality for the last five years is as follows: 1926, 568 births, 4 deaths; 1925, 573 births, 4 deaths; 1924, 589 births, 4 deaths; 1923, 629 births, 4 deaths; 1922, 709 births, 5 deaths.

The number of stillbirths recorded during 1926 was 34. This figure is the total number interred at the Accrington Cemetery. Out of the 34, 17 were notified to the Medical Officer of Health.

In every case investigations have been made, as is also the case with every Infant Death.

So far, no ante-natal work at the Centre has been found to be practicable, but it is to be hoped that with the opening of the new Maternity Home at Rough Lee, facilities for the extension of this work will be found.

Moorlands Hospital is the only place where we can send the unmarried mother, illegitimate children, and children permanently or temporarily deprived of a home with their parents.

Again it is a pleasure to record my appreciation of the excellent work done at the Chaigeley Manor Convalescent Home, on the right bank of the River Hodder, under Kemple End. Here, children who have become a little run down, but who are yet able to dress and look after themselves, are taken for a period of three weeks, where, under the influence of good food, fresh air, regulated life and quiet surroundings, they are enabled to recuperate and come back to everyday life freshened and invigorated.

In cases, where in the judgment of the M.O.H., three weeks is not sufficient for the purpose of recuperation, an additional period is added to the stay of the child. Altogether it has proved a very satisfactory adjunct to the school life of many children.

Mothers attending the Clinic on Thursday afternoons are able to obtain dried milk and Virol at practically cost price. During the past 12 months 1,078 lbs. of Glaxo, 1,451 lbs. of Cow and Gate, 474 lbs. of Ambrosia, and 1,756 $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. tins of Virol have been sold, the receipts of these sales amounting to £320 14s. 11d. In necessitous cases it is supplied free.

In addition, 1 pint of farmer's milk has been supplied free of cost to 133 different families daily, for an average of 17 weeks each.

As regards orthopaedic treatment, Victoria Hospital, Accrington, and Queen's Park Hospital, Blackburn, each take in cases; and the resources of Pendlebury Hospital, for Children, are also made use of in suitable cases, the Nurses being able to obtain recommends from subscribers in the District.

The Medical Officer of Health is also School Medical Officer; therefore, co-ordination is always maintained.

In every case of an Infant Death, careful investigation is carried out; in the majority of cases the Health Visitors have been in attendance.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum is visited by the Health Visitors and treatment supervised by them. The following table shows the number of cases notified during 1926 :—

Notified	Cases		Vision unimpaired.	Vision impaired	Total blindness	Deaths.
	Treated					
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
2	2	—	2	—	—	—

During the last six years I have been able to analyse many of the circumstances connected with the conditions surrounding the birth of the infants, and the following tables display under their appropriate years the number of mothers described as mill operatives, this year roughly about 33% ; the number of mothers who followed other occupations such as charing, confectionery, dressmaking, and shop assistants, about 5% ; and lastly, the mothers described as housewives, making about 62%. In the cases of the two former classes, the time of ceasing to go to work is also shown. At the lower part of the table the babies are analysed as regards their numerical position in the family, that is to say, whether they are first, second, third, or so on.

Mill Operatives.

No. of mothers		1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921
ceasing work							
after 1st month		—	2	—	—	3	2
„ 2nd „		15	7	13	9	16	22
„ 3rd „		16	16	21	12	24	17
„ 4th „		13	23	15	17	17	14
„ 5th „		18	23	22	39	34	35
„ 6th „		30	55	47	47	52	41
„ 7th „		44	63	50	50	60	47
„ 8th „		23	25	22	27	27	47
„ 9th „		15	14	14	13	22	23
Totals ...		<u>174</u>	<u>228</u>	<u>204</u>	<u>214</u>	<u>255</u>	<u>248</u>
Percent. of total births		31%	40%	35%	34%	26%	33%

Other Occupations.

No. of mothers		1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921
ceasing work							
after 1st month		—	—	—	—	1	—
„ 2nd „		—	—	—	—	—	5
„ 3rd „		1	3	1	—	5	5
„ 4th „		1	1	—	1	4	1
„ 5th „		2	—	4	3	6	5
„ 6th „		6	3	2	14	8	5
„ 7th „		4	5	2	5	8	6
„ 8th „		3	4	1	1	3	7
„ 9th „		8	2	6	5	6	11
Totals ...		<u>35</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>45</u>
Per cent. of total births		4%	3%	3%	4%	6%	6%

Housewives.

Per cent of total births	...	...	1926	1925	1924
			322 62%	320 57%	355 62%
			1923	1922	1921
			374 69%	400 57%	462 61%

Of the babies referred to above it was found that there were :—

No. of Mothers	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921
with 1st baby	209	222	207	245	283	332
„ 2nd „	131	144	145	172	173	189
„ 3rd „	79	93	95	82	102	89
„ 4th „	41	42	54	45	62	49
„ 5th „	24	20	24	28	25	37
„ 6th „	14	16	11	17	19	14
„ 7th „	7	10	11	8	8	10
„ 8th „	5	6	13	5	10	11
„ 9th „	2	7	5	3	7	13
„ 10th „	4	2	6	8	3	4
„ 11th „	2	2	3	1	2	4
„ 12th „	2	1	1	2	1	1
„ 13th „	1	1	—	—	—	2
„ 14th „	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ 15th „	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ 16th „	—	—	—	—	1	—
„ 17th „	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals ...	<u>521</u>	<u>566</u>	<u>575</u>	<u>617</u>	<u>696</u>	<u>755</u>

Of the 568 live Births relating to the Borough for the year 1926, 112, nearly 20% have been born at Moorlands. Of these, 108 were private patients who made their own arrangements for payment, and 4 were admitted under the Poor Law.

In addition to the above-mentioned 112 cases, there were 3 stillbirths which had been admitted, 2 private cases, and 1 case under Poor Law, so that, altogether, 115 women from Accrington went for confinement to Moorlands.

We continue to find great assistance in being able to send infants who are not thriving from any cause, for a change of air, change of nursing and a change of all external surroundings, to Moorlands Infirmary. Altogether 21 babies have been sent for varying periods, averaging about 15 weeks. Nine of these cases were admitted under Poor Law arrangements, and 12 cases, assisted by the Infant Welfare Committee, went as private patients. I cannot speak too highly of the benefits the infants have received at this Institution.

INFANTILE MORTALITY—CAUSES OF 43 INFANT DEATHS.

	Atelectasis.	Bronchitis.	Broncho Pneumonia.	Congestion of Lungs.	Congenital Defects.	Dentition.	Endocarditis.	Acute Infective Enteritis.	Gastro Enteritis.	Enteritis.	Jaundice.	Natural Causes.	Pulmonary Atelectasis.	Posterior Nasal Meningitis.	Premature Birth.	Pertussis (Whooping Cough).	Pyrexia.	Spina Bifida.	Pyloric Stenosis.	Marasmus.	Total.
January	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
February	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
March.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
April	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
May.....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	4	...	...	...	...	8
June	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
July	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	3
August	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	3
September	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	5
October	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
November	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2
December	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Transfers	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	3	9
Total	3	1	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	12	5	1	1	1	3	43

AGES AT DEATH.

Under one week.	Totals over one week.	Total under one month.	MONTHS.											Total under one year.
			1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12	
14	1-2 2-3 3-4 8 2 ...	24	1-2 5	2-3 2	3-4 5	4-5 1	5-6 ...	6-7 ...	7-8 ...	8-9 2	9-10 1	10-11 ...	11-12 3	43

Sanitary and Salvage Departments.

INSPECTOR'S

Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR 1926.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Accrington.

**To the Sanitary Authority
of the Borough of Accrington.**

Gentlemen,

Owing to the death on October 5th of our late Senior Sanitary Inspector, the following Report, which would have been Mr. Diggle's 28th, is respectfully submitted by me for the year 1926.

The total number of inspections and visits is 1,242, which figure does not include work carried out under the Housing Acts, the latter being dealt with elsewhere in the Report.

Summary of Defects and Nuisances Found.

Tippers to Waste Water Closets ...	...	...	85
Drains ...	...	...	17
Sewers ...	...	...	5
Street Gullies ...	...	...	4
Waste Water Closets Blocked ...	...	...	27
Fresh Water Closet Cisterns ...	...	...	2
Fresh Water Closet Service Pipes ...	...	...	11
Eaves Gutters ...	...	...	3
Rain Water Fall Pipes ...	...	...	4
Sash Windows ...	...	...	3
Ashes Receptacles (defective) ...	...	...	66
Ashes Receptacles (insufficient) ...	...	...	6
Dirty Houses ...	...	...	2
Accumulations of refuse ...	...	...	8
Miscellaneous Defects and Nuisances ...	...	...	6

In addition 1,782 further slight defects to sanitary accommodation were dealt with during the year.

The foregoing involved the service of 147 Written Notices—108 of which were informal and 39 statutory, the whole of which received adequate attention.

Sanitary Accommodation.

Further progress has been made in reducing the number of Pail Closets and the substitution thereof of fresh water closets, 97 such conversions having been carried out.

The following figures indicate the various types now in use :—

Fresh Water, 2,195 ; Waste Water, 9,238 ; Pails, 294.

Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.

The following cases were notified :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	37
Diphtheria	...	...	...	13
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	2
Erysipelas	...	...	...	16

Disinfection has again been efficiently accomplished, and the following figures convey some idea of the extent of this work :—

Articles of bedding, etc., dealt with	...	828
Rooms disinfected	...	186
School rooms disinfected	...	3
Library Books disinfected	...	21

In addition 121 articles of clothing and bedding were destroyed.

157 visits were paid.

In order to encourage limewashing, brushes continue to be loaned to resident applicants at a charge of 2d. per day. The number of times brushes have been so issued during the year is 236.

Common Lodging Houses.

Of the five Common Lodging Houses in the Borough, four accommodate men only. The Model Lodging House, Bull Bridge, affords lodgings for persons of both sexes, including married couples.

As to the state of cleanliness prevailing, and the manner in which these places are conducted generally, there is seldom cause for complaint.

240 visits were paid.

Offensive Trades.

Premises where Offensive Trades are conducted comprise Tripe Dressing and Gut Scraping.

Bye-laws are in force which prescribe a certain standard of cleanliness, and provision for the proper conduct of these premises.

On no occasion during the year has it been necessary to draw attention to any contravention of the Bye-laws.

145 visits were paid.

Food Supply.

Meat.—Practically all the fresh meat consumed in the Borough is slaughtered locally.

The following figures relate to killings at the Public Abattoirs, and account for the major portion:—

Bovines (bulls, bullocks, cows, heifers and calves)	...	...	...	...	...	3,935
Sheep and lambs	...	...	...	...	...	30,781
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	589
						35,305

The caretaker of the Public Abattoirs resides on the premises, enabling him to be present during slaughtering, and to exercise supervision in the absence of the Medical Officer of Health or Sanitary Inspector.

The management and cleanliness of the premises generally leave little to be desired from all concerned.

155 visits were paid.

Only two Private Slaughterhouses now remain, one belonging to the Co-operative Society, and the other to Messrs. Robinsons, Pork Butchers. Here also a satisfactory state of affairs obtains.

Milk.—The production and handling of milk has of recent years received considerably increased attention.

During the year under review a new Order came into force, Regulations under which we had worked since 1901, being thereby revoked.

All cowkeepers and dairymen in the Borough have been fully acquainted with the requirements of the new Order, and there are indications that improvements will be effected without resort to formal action.

Much good work had been carried out previously under the old Order, especially with regard to lighting, air space and water supply.

The provision of a suitable keeping place or dairy, is one of the newer requirements, and this point should receive early attention on the part of cowkeepers.

Improvements in the method of storage and handling will require to be carried out on premises from which milk is re-tailed, as the new Order indicates that milk shall be adequately protected from all possible sources of contamination.

It will thus be readily seen that in the case of certain shops this will present much difficulty.

New registers have been compiled, and now contain the following :—

No. of cowkeepers in the Borough	...	...	40
Dairymen or purveyors (other than cowkeepers)			85
103 visits were paid.			

Graded Milk :

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order of 1923, cowkeepers were exhorted to produce milk of higher grade, and we have now coming into our Borough Grade "A" and Certified Milk in bottles. None of this milk, however, is produced locally.

The production of either of these two grades of milk demands a high state of cleanliness at the farm, in addition to compliance with other conditions which are laid down in the Order quoted. .

It is regretted that no local cowkeeper has yet seen fit to undertake the production of Graded Milk.

Other Foodstuffs.

Bakehouses which number 80, and other premises where food is prepared or stored, have been kept under observation, no formal action having been necessitated during the year.

The amount of Food condemned or surrendered during 1926, as being unfit for human food, is as follows :—

Tuberculous carcasses and parts: Seven beasts' carcasses (2,394 lbs.) and 10 sets of organs.

Diseased, unsound or unwholesome meat (other than above): Beef 1,448 lbs.; Mutton 152 lbs.; 3 pigs' livers.

Other foodstuffs: Apples 252 lbs.; Corned Beef 24 lbs.; Pears 4 boxes; Raspberries 43 baskets; Strawberries 21 baskets; yeast 7 lbs.; tins of milk 3; rabbits 7.

No legal proceedings were taken.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, Condensed Milk Regulations, 1923, Dried Milk Regulations, 1923, and Milk and Cream Regulations, 1912-1917.

Sampling for analysis under the above legislation is still carried out by our Borough Police, 34 samples being taken during the year. Details are as follows :—

Milk	...	...	...	...	18
Butter	...	...	...	...	8
Lard	...	...	...	...	6
Cheese	...	...	...	...	2
					—
Total	...	...	...	...	34

Analysis showed all the above samples to be genuine,

Tuberculosis Order of 1925.

Five cows have been dealt with under this Order, all of which have been destroyed and compensation paid in each case.

Factories and Workshops.

Visits to these premises number 139. Two notices have been received from H.M. Inspector of Factories during the year, and have received adequate attention.

Public Elementary Schools.

Each school has been inspected on at least three occasions during the year, and a satisfactory state of cleanliness found to be prevailing.

During these visits attention was given to water supply and sanitary accommodation, which were in all cases found to be in good order.

33 visits were paid.

Smoke Abatement.

Some little improvement has taken place during the year in the amount of dense smoke emitted, though the necessity for using lower grade coal during the Coal Dispute did not assist matters.

The new Smoke Abatement Act comes into force on the 1st day of July next, when the definition of "Smoke" will be extended so as to include soot, grit, etc., and will not necessarily mean black smoke.

Adequate powers for dealing with **dense** smoke are already possessed by our Local Authority, in the form of Regulations, fixing limits, and it might be mentioned that the limits in force in our Borough are stricter than those of any neighbouring authority.

No legal proceedings were instituted during the year.

Storage of Petroleum and Carbide.

Work carried out under this heading includes the issue of annual licenses. There are now in force 80 such licenses for the storage of petrol, and thirteen for carbide of calcium.

The installing of underground petrol tanks is on the increase. This method gives a far greater immunity from risk of explosion than obtains where loose cans are stored.

Inspection of these premises has occasioned no legal action being taken during the year.

Housing Inspection.

Fifty-two houses have been inspected under the Housing Acts, and the particulars recorded as required by the Act.

The following work has been accomplished during the year :—

- 46 Sash windows provided.
- 8 Swivel windows provided.
- 5 Roofs repaired.
- 9 Boarded floors repaired.
- 5 Outside walls repaired.
- 6 Ceilings repaired.

- 22 Windows repaired.
- 9 Doors repaired.
- 5 Stair hand rails repaired.
- 9 Fire-ranges repaired.
- 16 Miscellaneous repairs.
- 8 Ashes bins provided.

The shortage of houses existing when the war ended has, to some extent, been relieved by the provision of 205 Municipal houses on the Laneside Estate, together with private subsidy and other house building.

During 1927, 112 Municipal houses will be ready for occupation on the Willows Lane Site, and will help further to reduce the shortage.

Housing Statistics for the Year 1926.

No of new houses erected during the year 1926:—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))...	138
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts—	
(i) By the Local Authority	27
(ii) By other bodies or persons	101

No. of houses in course of erection under Council's building scheme 95

Financial assistance for purposes of increasing housing accommodation:—

Have any advances been made during 1926—

- (a) By loans? No. Amount of loans, Nil.
- (b) By subsidy? Yes. Number 101. Amount of subsidies, £10,100.

Unfit dwelling-houses—

Inspection—(1) Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)...	138
(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	52
(3) No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
(4) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under (3) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	126

Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices—

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	114
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Action under Statutory Powers:—

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925—

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	12
(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	12
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners... ..	Nil.
(3) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	3

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil.
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925—

(1) No. of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
(3) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil:
(4) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(5) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.

D.—No. of houses demolished voluntarily by owners, or converted to workshops, &c. ... Nil.

Street Scavenging.

Hand labour is still employed in the emptying of gullies.

804 Tons of Street Sweepings were collected and sold during the year.

The estimated cost of street cleansing, including the emptying of gullies, was £3,720, the actual net cost being £3,660.

Cost to the rate in the £ ... 3.5d.

Cost per 1,000 of the population ... £83 17s. 2d.

Cost of emptying street gullies ... £500 (Approx.)

Total mileage of streets and roads ... 53

Refuse Collection.

The number of dwelling-houses in the Borough is 11,697, in addition to 367 shops.

13,077 Tons of refuse were collected and taken to Argyle Street Works during the year, besides which 764 tons (estimated) were deposited on tips, giving a total of 13,841 tons, or an average of 23 cwts. per house or shop.

Average weight per load collected : Horses $30\frac{1}{4}$ cwts.

Motors $31\frac{1}{4}$ „

The gross expenditure on collection, including a daily collection of fish garbage, clean waste paper, and collection of trade refuse, etc., was £5,499, the gross cost per ton being 7/11.4d. The gross income was £922. The cost of emptying closet pails is not included.

The net total cost of the collection of all refuse in the Borough amounted to £4,577, being £227 in excess of the estimate for the year.

The net cost per ton was 6/7.4d.

Net cost of collection per 1,000 of population £104 19s. 6d.

Net cost of collection per 1,000 houses or
premises from which refuse is collected £379 7s. 10d.

Total cost to the rates in the £ 4.4d.

Rateable value £265,638 10s. 0d.

Product of a penny rate £1,035

Total rates in the £ 11/-.

Refuse Disposal.

The working of the new plant still continues to give satisfaction. The tonnage handled in the last 12 months amounted to 13,077.

The gross expenditure was £7,010 and the gross income £2,887.

The net cost of disposal was £4,123, or £377 below the estimate for the year.

The gross expenditure per ton was 10/8.7d., and the gross income 4/5.0d. per ton, the net cost per ton being 6/3.7d.

Other figures of interest are:—

Net cost : Equivalent rate in the £ ...	4.0d.
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Percentage of net cost per £ to total rates in the £	3
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Net cost per 1,000 of population ...	£94 11s. 3d.
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Net cost per 1,000 houses	£342 11s. 9d.
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The following statement shows gross receipts from residuals, etc., from all Departments under my control:—

	T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Rags	6	10	0	0	13	0	0			
Fish Meal... ..	83	0	0	21	1,160	1	3			
Fish Oil	0	6	3	0	4	2	8			
Baled Scrap Tins	111	5	1	0	130	15	1			
Light Scrap Iron...	21	14	1	0	37	19	11			
Cast Scrap Iron ...	2	16	3	0	7	16	1			
Scrap Brass	0	1	0	9	2	0	4			
Glass	8	9	1	0	3	3	9			
Bagging, Carpets, and										
Rugs	17	4	1	0	34	8	6			
Bones	0	5	0	2	1	0	0			
Street Sweepings...	804	3	3	0	80	8	4			
Tar-Macadam	80	0	2	0	113	4	8			
Waste Paper	100	18	2	0	231	7	10			
String	0	10	1	0	3	11	9			
Fat	0	16	2	6	25	4	11			
								1,848	5	1
Mortar	7,271	6	1	0	4,171	18	4			
Clinker	138	16	2	0	34	14	2			
								4,206	12	6
Calorific Power (contribution from Electricity Department for refuse burnt)					800	0	0			
								800	0	0
Total amount realised								£6,854	17	7
Do. 1925								£5,992	4	1

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. A. HINDLE,

Temporary Sanitary and
Cleaving Inspector.

31-12-1926.

